

NATIONAL WAR PERMANENT TRIBUTE HISTORICAL DATABASE ACT

MAY 17, 2004.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. POMBO, from the Committee on Resources,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 2201]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 2201) to authorize the establishment of a national database for purposes of identifying, locating, and cataloging the many memorials and permanent tributes to America's veterans, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of H.R. 2201 is to authorize the establishment of a national database for purposes of identifying, locating, and cataloging the many memorials and permanent tributes to America's veterans.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

Title III of Public Law 105-511 contained a Sense of the Congress resolution (H. Con. Res. 345) regarding the need for cataloging and maintaining public memorials commemorating military conflicts of the United States and the service of individuals in the U.S. Armed Forces. Also contained in Public Law 105-511 was language citing Remembering Veterans Who Earned Their Stripes (RVETS), a nonprofit disabled veterans organization that had undertaken a self-funded program to catalogue the memorials located in the United States that commemorate military conflicts of the United States and the service of individuals in the Armed Forces. To date, RVETS has catalogued over 8,500 memorials in 50 States. The Resolution recommended that the Secretary of the Interior col-

lect and maintain information on public memorials that commemorate military conflicts of the United States, coordinate efforts at collecting and maintaining the information with similar efforts by other entities, such as RVETS, and make the information available to the public.

H.R. 2201 represents the continuation of the Sense of Congress resolution. It directs the Secretary of the Interior to establish, maintain, and make available to the public through the Internet the National War Permanent Tribute Historical Database that would be comprised of existing Department information as well as that collected and maintained by States and their political subdivisions, tribal governments, public or private educational institutions, nonprofit organizations, and individuals or other entities that the Secretary considers appropriate.

COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 2201 was introduced by Congressman Mark Udall (D-CO) on May 21, 2003.¹ The bill was referred primarily to the Committee on Resources and additionally to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. With the Committee on Resources, the bill was referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands. On April 22, 2004, the Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands met to mark up the bill. No amendments were offered and the bill was forwarded to the Full Resources Committee by unanimous consent. On May 5, 2004, the Full Committee on Resources met to consider the bill. No amendments were offered and the bill was ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by voice vote.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Regarding clause 2(b)(1) of rule X and clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Resources' oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Article I, section 8, of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the authority to enact this bill.

COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XIII

1. Cost of Legislation. Clause 3(d)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires an estimate and a comparison by the Committee of the costs which would be incurred in carrying out this bill. However, clause 3(d)(3)(B) of that rule provides that this requirement does not apply when the Committee has included in its report a timely submitted cost estimate of the bill prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

2. Congressional Budget Act. As required by clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, this bill does not

¹During the 107th Congress, similar legislation, H.R. 2748, was reported by the Resources Committee. H.R. 2201 includes those amendments agreed upon during the 107th Congress.

contain any new budget authority, spending authority, credit authority, or an increase or decrease in revenues or tax expenditures.

3. General Performance Goals and Objectives. As required by clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the general performance goal or objective of this bill is to authorize the establishment of a national database for purposes of identifying, locating, and cataloging the many memorials and permanent tributes to America's veterans.

4. Congressional Budget Office Cost Estimate. Under clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has received the following cost estimate for this bill from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, May 11, 2004.

Hon. RICHARD W. POMBO,
*Chairman, Committee on Resources,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 2201, the National War Permanent Tribute Historical Database Act.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Deborah Reis.

Sincerely,

ELIZABETH ROBINSON
(For Douglas Holtz-Eakin, Director).

Enclosure.

H.R. 2201—National War Permanent Tribute Historical Database Act

H.R. 2201 would authorize the Department of the Interior to establish and maintain a database of public memorials to military conflicts. The department would be authorized to enter into contracts and cooperative agreements to obtain information and services to develop the database, which would make information about the location and history of permanent memorials available to the public. Within three years of the legislation's enactment, the department would report to the Congress on the feasibility of establishing a federal fund to repair, restore, or maintain the memorials that are listed in the database.

Based on information provided by the National Park Service (NPS) and assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that it would cost around \$1.6 million over the next year or two to establish the memorial database. This amount would be used to design and develop the database. We estimate that additional costs to maintain the database would be less than \$500,000 annually beginning in 2006, also assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. Enacting H.R. 2201 would not affect direct spending or receipts.

This bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Deborah Reis. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC LAW 104-4

This bill contains no unfunded mandates.

PREEMPTION OF STATE, LOCAL OR TRIBAL LAW

This bill is not intended to preempt any State, local or tribal law.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

If enacted, this bill would make no changes to existing law.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, May 12, 2004.

Hon. CHRISTOPHER SMITH,
Chairman, Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I request your assistance in expending the consideration of H.R. 2201, the National War Permanent Tribute Historical Database Act, authored by Congressman Mark Udall. Mr. Udall introduced the bill on May 21, 2003, when it was referred to the Committee on Resources and additionally to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. The bill is identical to one favorably reported by the Committee on Resources during the 107th Congress, H.R. 2748. The Committee on Resources ordered H.R. 2201 favorably reported without amendment on May 5, 2004, by unanimous consent. I have forwarded a copy of our draft bill report to your staff for review.

Because of the limited number of days remaining in the 108th Congress and the rapid approach of Memorial Day, I ask you not to insist on your additional referral of the bill and allow the Committee on Veterans' Affairs to be discharged so that H.R. 2201 can be voted on before adjournment. Of course, by agreeing to this request, you are not waiving jurisdiction over the bill, nor is this action to be construed as a precedent for other, similar legislation. In addition, I would support a request from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs to be represented on any conference on H.R. 2201 or a companion Senate bill, should one become necessary. Finally, I would include this letter and any response you might have in the Committee on Resources bill report on H.R. 2201.

Thank you for your consideration of my request. I appreciate our continued excellent working relationship on issues of mutual concern this Congress, and especially the work of Kingston Smith of your staff. I look forward to working with you both to see H.R. 2201 enacted soon.

Sincerely,

RICHARD W. POMBO,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, May 13, 2004.

Hon. RICHARD W. POMBO,
*Chairman, Committee on Resources,
Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter of May 12, 2004, regarding H.R. 2201, the National War Permanent Tribute Historical Database Act. I wish to inform the Committee on Resources that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs does not desire an additional referral of H.R. 2201 and agrees to be discharged from consideration of the bill. I would appreciate the inclusion of this letter in the bill report along with your letter.

Your cooperative approach in the consideration of legislation of mutual interest to our committees is exemplary, and I particularly commend Lisa Pittman of your staff for her attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH,
Chairman.

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